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ROUND THE PORT

Cape cruise off as Greek ship is sold

KARAGEORGIS LINE, OF Piraeus, have sold their flagship Navarino, and the sailing the liner was to have made in November from Southampton to South Africa has been cancelled.

The ship has been bought by Commodore Cruise Lines, which is associated with the Sally Viking Line.

Karageorgis introduced the 23,000-ton Navarino to Southampton in January, 1979 for an experimental voyage to South Africa.

The idea was to fill the gap left by the ending of the Union-Castle and Safmarine passenger service to the Cape.

The voyage, combined with cruises in the Indian Ocean, was successful, and there was a second sailing in 1980, although on this occasion the ship switched to South America for her cruise operation instead of the Indian Ocean.

A third Cape voyage had been scheduled for November 17, but this will not now be made. In 1979 the Navarino had the South Africa service to herself, but in 1980 competition came from the Lauro Line with a round Africa cruise.

Navarino was originally the Swedish liner Gripsholm, built in 1957 and largely rebuilt when Karageorgis acquired her in 1975.

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Cadogan Travel, the Chelsea-based tour operator, is moving its headquarters to Southampton as phase one of a five year expansion plan.

The company, which specialises in holidays to Gibraltar, Spain, Tunisia, Algarve, Cyprus, Madeira, Malta, Morocco and Bermuda, recently acquired the Channel Islands operator, House of Bellingham U.K. Ltd., which is based in Southampton.

Mr. Nigel Thompson, Cadogan managing director, said London was getting a little expensive and Southampton was ideally suited for future operating plans.

The move is scheduled for November 17.

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Southampton Master Mariners' Club is holding its annual ball at the Polygon hotel on Friday, October 9.

The star prize in the tombola this year will be a two-weeks cruise in the Canberra, given by P&O Cruises.

Tickets, at £10 each, are available from the boatsteerer at the club.

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